(b) IDFC has reported that amongst the international investors, International Finance Corporation has agreed to subscribe upto US Dollar 20 million to the company's share capital.

(c) The mission of IDFC will be to lead private capital investments for infrastructure projects on a commercially viable basis. IDFC will be proactive on both the supply and demand side of the infrastructure sector. It will nurture and develop bankable projects as well as develop expertise in structured financing for infrastructure. In its initial phase of operations, IDFC will be active in the fields of power, telecommunications, roads & highways, ports and urban finance.

Loans/Advances to Minorities

466. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) whether banks submit regularly to the Reserve Bank of India, their returns indicating loans/advances to specified minorities;

(b) the arrangements for the scrutiny of these returns and the follow up work;

(c) the annual target and the amount of loans/advances to each of the specified minorities during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken in case of banks with shortfalls and deficiencies in channelising the flow of credit to minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the public sector banks submit details regarding priority sector advances granted to specified minority communities on half yearly basis. The returns furnished by the public sector banks are scrutinised by the RBI and consolidated statements are sent to the administrative Ministries and the National Commission for Minorities. Wherever delays are noticed, the banks are advised by the RBI for taking remedial action.

(c) and (d) RBI has further reported that under the present arrangement, no specific targets have been earmarked for the minority communities within the priority sector advances. Information regarding priority sector advances granted by public sector banks (balance amount oustanding) the minority communities in the country as of the end of March, 1994, March, 1995 and March, 1996 (latest available), as furnished by RBI are given below:—

A/cs in Lakhs)
(Amount : Rs. in Crores)

Year ended March, 1994		Year ended March, 1995		Year ended March, 1996	
No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding
59.11	6351.61	61.20	6946.79	64.43	7916.23

As evaluation of credit facilities to minority communities in 18 of the 41 districts identified as having concentration of minority communities undertaken by RBI revealed, *inter-alia*, that the assistance given to the members of the minority communities by banks was normally found adequate. The banks have also been advised by the RBI to take steps to facilitate the flow of credit to the minority communities and to review the progress made regularly at the District Consultative Committed (DCC) and the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meetings.

[Translation]

Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973

467. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make amendment in the Coal Mines Act, 1973;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have noted that the projections of coal production and of coal demand show that there will be a gap towards the end of the 9th Plan which will increase during the 10th Plan period. This gap will remain even though the investment in the 9th Plan will be more than double the investment in the 8th Plan. In 1993 the Coal Mines